

# Commonwealth of Kentucky

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

157 Bellemeade Drive  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Home: (502) 223-1769



**STATE CAPITOL ANNEX**  
702 Capitol Avenue, Room 329 F  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
502-564-8100 Ext. 639  
Email: derrick.graham@lrc.ky.gov

**DERRICK W. GRAHAM**  
57<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
FRANKLIN COUNTY

October 1, 2010

Mr. John J. Johnson, Executive Director  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights  
332 West Broadway, Suite 700  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Dear Mr. Johnson:

No history of Kentucky can adequately be written without recognizing the ongoing struggle for equality and the brave men and women who literally put their lives on the line to make it happen. This quest has helped to define who we are from the moment the first settlers crossed the Cumberland Gap and sailed down the Ohio River.

It would take far more space than this letter to record the contributions of those who made civil rights their life's work, but one organization definitely stands out when looking back on the last 50 years: the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. It has been a beacon for what is just and right from the beginning, and it is impossible to imagine where we would be today without it.

I'm deeply proud of the Commission's work. It has relentlessly pushed the Commonwealth forward, no matter the obstacle, no matter how hard the political winds may have blown back.

I believe those who were there in the Commission's first days would be proud of the gains made since then, but they would also share our belief that as long as inequality exists, our job is not finished. The Commission's founders would be ill-served if we declared victory simply because we were nearer to the goal line. We have to keep our eyes on the prize.

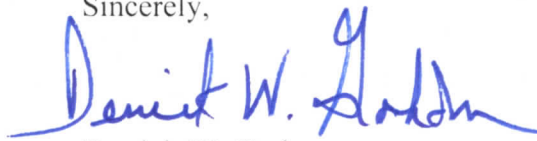
As long as the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights exists, I know that there is little chance we will let our guard down. Its work during the last 50 years will forever be the bedrock that will support what we in Kentucky hope to do in the next 50 years.

Mr. John Johnson  
Page 2  
October 1, 2010

Our mission can be summed up in the ending words of Senator Edward Kennedy's speech at the 1980 Democratic Convention, "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."

For those who support the Human Rights Commission, or who have benefited from it, the dream for equality truly does endure. On behalf of the Kentucky House of Representatives, I want to thank the Commission for all that it has done, and for all that it will do. It is making a true difference in all of our lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Derrick W. Graham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "G" at the end.

Derrick W. Graham  
State Representative  
57<sup>th</sup> District